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SIPDIS

TO ADMIRAL KEATING FROM CDA SHARI VILLAROSA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [BM](#)
SUBJECT: JTF-CARING RESPONSE: TERMINATION OF RELIEF
OPERATIONS

¶1. (U) Joint Task Force Caring Response (JTF-CR) has performed magnificently in responding to the humanitarian and disaster relief needs of Burma after Cyclone Nargis caused widespread devastation. Quickly identifying the need for delivery and distribution of humanitarian relief supplies, JTF-CR mobilized rapidly to establish command and control and make available 22 helicopters, 7 C-130s, and two ships to support the requirements to move water, food, medicine, and shelter into the affected areas.

¶2. (U) The United Nations and the international humanitarian community now have all the mechanisms in place and functioning to provide both delivery and distribution of additional humanitarian relief supplies. The UN air bridge currently has excess capacity, and a sea bridge has been established which adds significantly increased and cheaper capacity for delivery of supplies. Supplies are being distributed to the logistics hubs then to the affected areas by UN Logistic Cluster helicopters, trucks, boats and barges.

¶3. (U) With the establishment of basic delivery and distribution mechanisms for relief supplies the Embassy Country Team believes that the international humanitarian community can now meet most of the humanitarian needs of the population of Burma. As of June 22, JTF-CR will have flown 185 C-130 missions delivering over 3.5 million pounds of supplies. Beyond the physical relief the JTF-CR provided, JTF enabled the USG to assume a leadership role in the delivery of humanitarian relief to Burma. The JTF was quick to understand that a U.S. presence and influence with the Government of Burma, along with the UN, international Non-Governmental Organizations, other donors, regional organizations such as ASEAN, and regional partners like Indonesia and Thailand, was critical in achieving U.S. goals in response to the crisis. The JTF's quick response favorably influenced international and regional perceptions of the U.S. as an important and reliable partner in the region. In addition, the people of Burma knew of the U.S. response despite restrictions on the dissemination of news in Burma.

¶4. (U) While we support the termination of flight operations on June 22 and JTF-CR's redeployment, we hope that the US Pacific Command will be able to respond again should significant additional new needs arise. We have garnered tremendous goodwill for our efforts using the C-130s, and should try to build on that goodwill in the future to further increase Burmese comfort with our presence here. Therefore, we recommend that USPACOM consider showing our flag more regularly in Rangoon after the termination of JTF-Caring Response. We will be glad to work with your team anytime.

15. (U) Embassy Rangoon extends its deepest appreciation to Admiral Keating and the US Pacific Command for PACOM's outstanding support to assist the Burmese victims of Cyclone Nargis. In particular, we wish to thank Lt Gen Goodman, BGen Bailey, the USS Essex group, and all members of JTF-Caring Response for their many valuable contributions to deliver relief to the Burmese people devastated by the terrible force of Cyclone Nargis.

VILLAROSA